

Waldron Telephone Company

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DATE: March 7, 2014

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FROM: Waldron Telephone Company, Waldron, MI

TO: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Staff

SUBJECT: Expression of Interest – Rural Trials
Docket No. 10-90

Background

Waldron Telephone Company is an ILEC located in southeastern Michigan. Waldron has worked on providing higher broadband speeds to its subscribers through the introduction of ADSL, some wireless applications, and finally some FTTH. A rural community like Waldron, with the long distances between subscribers, makes the introduction to FTTH a costly project and it is for that reason that Waldron Telephone Company is submitting this Expression of Interest, hoping for assistance to make the high speed access a reality in this rural community.

Geographic Territory –

Waldron Telephone Company is proposing to serve its entire exchange area with FTTH. This includes portions of Hillsdale County and Lenawee County Michigan. There will be 562 houses passed. This area covers 115 Census blocks in the Census tracts of 051100 & 061900. In the rural area there are approximately 8.3 houses per mile.

List of Anchor Institutions

Schools: Waldron Elementary, Middle, and High School.

Libraries: Waldron School Library, Waldron District Library.

Waldron Fire Department

Proposed technology

A Fiber to the Home system will be the technology that will be implemented, with the system based on a GPON deployments. The design will be such that the optical splitters can be removed in the future and Active Ethernet can be substituted for the GPON. Initial speed offerings will be 10 Mbps, 20 Mbps, 50 Mbps, and 100 Mbps. Business customers will have the capability to receive Gigabit

service if requested. The monthly costs for these broadband speeds shall be \$54.95 (10 Mbps), \$74.95 (20 Mbps), \$94.95 (50 Mbps), and \$124.95 (100 Mbps).

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State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support for Project

The fiber construction will take place within the right-of-way of the County and State Highways. The many years of construction and work with these agencies will streamline the process of obtaining permits.

Existing Providers

Waldron Telephone provides the primary services in this area. There are some wireless providers, but broadband speeds are not at acceptable levels or as reliable by those providers.

Project Timeline

Waldron can be shovel ready within three months to commence work on this project.

Scalability

This project is small enough to complete in one construction season.

Total Utility Investment

\$225,000

One Time Capital Infrastructure Investment Needed

\$2,025,000

Total Project Cost

\$2,250,000